GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3805
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2017
Submarine Optical Fibre
Ray Shri Bishnu Pada

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has sanctioned Rs. 1102.38 crores for implementation of Submarine Optical Fibre Cable Connectivity between Chennai and Andaman & Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof and time by which the said project is likely to be completed along with the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) whether the Government has received any representation from the Member of Parliament from Andaman & Nicobar Islands in this regard and if so, the details thereof and the response of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)

(a) & (b) Yes, Madam. On 21.09.2016, Government has approved the proposal for Submarine OFC connectivity between Mainland India (Chennai) and Port Blair & five other Islands Car Nicobar, Little Andaman, Havelock, Kamorta and Great Nicobar Island. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1102.38 Crore, out of which CAPEX of Rs. 880.03 Crore shall be funded by USO Fund while Annual Operational Expenditure (OPEX) in the form of viability gap funding currently estimated as Rs. 44.47 Crore per annum shall be funded by Andaman & Nicobar Islands Administration for initial five years for which adequate budget provision would be made by MHA. The project is targeted to be implemented by 31.12.2018.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has been nominated as Project Execution Agency. The Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for submarine cable system between Chennai and A&N Islands using 4 fiber pair with 100 Gbps initial traffic capacity has been floated by BSNL on 07.07.2017.

(c) Two representations have been received from the Member of Parliament from Andaman & Nicobar Islands vide Letter No. 55/MP/ANI/PBMC/2017/377 dated 01.03.2017 and under Rule 377 of Lok Sabha debate dated 06/02/2017 regarding delay in time schedule in implementation on Submarine Optical Fibre Connectivity between Mainland (Chennai) & Andaman & Nicobar Islands and to extend the submarine cable connectivity to Rangat via Long Island from Havelock Island. The action taken by the Government is as follows:

(i) Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) for the Submarine cable system between Chennai and A&N Islands has already been floated by BSNL on 07.07.2017.

(ii) Regarding submarine optical fibre connectivity of Rangat via Long Island from Havelock, technical feasibility and cost estimation for extending the submarine OFC network has already been carried out by Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL), the Technical Consultant. The matter is under consideration for approval.

****